





NEW REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS

1. Best practice handbook - Transnational Model of Sustainable Protection and Conservation of Ruins

The assessment of the technical condition of historical buildings is one of the most important conservation problems. The assessment of technical condition is the basis for the fundamental decisions related to the protection of the monument - from determining the scope of interference needed in the form and substance of the monument, through planning conservation and renovation works, until choosing the form of adaptation of the object to modern utility functions. Of course, in each of these areas the assessment of the technical condition is not the only factor, but it is always an important factor, and often even decisive.

In the case of monuments of construction and architecture, the assessment of technical condition is conditioned on two levels. The first determinant are problems related to the state of monuments as a building. These are strictly technical issues - geotechnical, constructional, material, technological, etc. In the case of these engineering problems, the historic building is treated like any other building. The parameters determining the condition of building materials and structure are important, e.g., strength, humidity, salinity, adhesiveness, insulation, cracking, deflection, and settlement. In the study of these parameters, the historical character of the building does not really matter.

However, historical values mean that the assessment of the technical condition of historical buildings cannot be reduced only to the engineering issues. The need to preserve the object in accordance with the requirements of authenticity and integrity - that is, the overriding conservation rules - often also influences the scope of the technical assessment. The necessity to preserve the authentic elements and materials of the monument (instead of replacing them) may require extending the scope of research. Similar requirements may also result from the adoption of certain technologies or conservational materials that impose the historical character of the object. As a result, technical inspections of historical buildings are often more extensive and more accurate, and they may require in situ and the laboratory analysis.

Additional conditions resulting from the need to carry out conservation works (apart from construction and renovation works) and the special value of historical buildings, therefore, make the assessment of their technical condition an important, responsible and often non-obvious task. Therefore, creating specific standards for such analyzes is fully justified. Especially in relation to atypical groups of monuments, such as the historical ruins.

The great importance that diagnostics and assessment of their technical condition has for the proper protection and management of historical ruins fully justifies the creation



of a publication devoted to this subject. As part of the RUINS - Sustainable re-use, preservation and modern management of historical ruins in Central Europe project, separate guides are devoted to the three main areas of effective protection of historical ruins - management, use and an assessment of the technical condition. Each of these publications is a joint work of all project partners, but the main participants in their creation were partners responsible for the given issues.

To get more details visit <https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/D.T1.4.3-Best-practice-handbook---transnational-model-of-sus.pdf>

2. Best practice handbook - Guidelines of the Modern Management of the Historical Ruins

Historical ruins and, more in general, the whole Cultural Heritage provide a tangible link with our past and are thus fundamental in order to testify the ancient roots and our ancestors' habits and culture within the nowadays society. In this perspective, a sustainable and correct approach to their management is one of the main tasks for Authorities, Bodies and Associations involved in the protection and management of Cultural Heritage. In addition, according to this view, it seems important to provide to the Cultural Heritage a role within the life of the local community where the monument is located.

Designing and realizing a sustainable management of historical monuments and ruins needs to take into account several issues and to select the correct solution, in order to preserve the historical monument on one hand, and to evaluate if a reuse of the building is possible, and which one is the best, on the other hand.

Thus, the experiences of the members of the RUINS (Interreg CE 902) project could represent a valuable initial reference in order to define a best practice and elaborate a guideline to sustainably manage and reuse historical ruins. The present handbook takes into account several issues concerning the architectural and engineering design for the reuse of the buildings, as well as the social and economic planning for the activities and enterprises that could find place within the ruins. In this perspective, the different areas of operation of the partners of the RUINS project (Universities, Municipalities, "Policy makers", restorers and technical operators) could represent a side value for the handbook, as well as the various provenance of the partners (Croatia, Czech Republic, Italy, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia).

The structure of the handbook reflects the order of steps that it is supposed to follow during the evaluation process of a new management model of an historical monument, particularly with regard to medieval ruins. The first part deals with the initial audit phase, a fundamental step in order to fully evaluate the possibility to give the historical monument a management model and/or an adaptive reuse. This initial audit takes into account a preliminary knowledge of the conservative, compositional and historical



background of the monument, as well as the expectations of local populations and of the community where the piece of Heritage is located in, as well as the features of its context in terms of infrastructure or of socio-economic issues. In the third chapter, the handbook focuses on the different management models that can characterise the historical buildings. The kind of ownership affects a lot the way a medieval ruin could be managed, depending if the cultural good is a public good or a private one; a third management model is a cooperation among public owners and private enterprises, in order to reach a sustainable enhancement of the goods together with a profitable development of an economic activity. Once the management model has been chosen, the following step is devoted to identifying the possible economic or productive activity that could be installed within the monument. Thus, the fourth chapter of the handbook deals with this issue, in particular with the preliminary evaluation of production typologies that can sustainably couple with the conservative needs of the monument, as well as with an analysis of entrepreneurial activity which can be inserted after a regional scale enquiry of the market need, and - finally - a specific and punctual definition of the design and cost investment, also through the definition of a business plan. Once the owner and/or the manager has chosen the destination of the possible adaptive reuse of the building, the further step is to project and realise an integrate operation of restoration of the building and an energy and static adaption. On this issue focuses the fifth chapter that considers also the after-work maintenance plan. The following chapter deals with the operational and promotional operations that could be promoted both by the owner and by the manager. Finally, a collection of one best practice and one worst practice per each partner concludes the volume.

To get more details visit <https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/D.T3.4.2-Best-Practice-Handbook---Guidelines-of-the-modern-manag>

3. Report of Current State-of-Art of Use and Re-use of Medieval Ruins

This report represents a first operative development of WPT2, dedicated to the theme of sustainable use and re-use of medieval ruins. The aim of the workpackage is finding the balance between the needs of stakeholders and public expectations concerning use of medieval ruins on one hand, and on the other hand preservation of authenticity and historical value of medieval ruins (as historical monuments). The basic assumption is that a lack of functionality of medieval ruins leaves limited opportunities for establishing a viable economic future of these sites. Giving new functions to ruins can result in broad, economically profitable ways of using the medieval ruins. In economy market conditions a building with a beneficial use is far more likely to survive than one that has no use at all. Reuse is surely one of the best ways to ensure the preservation of an antique object: a function-free monument deteriorates rapidly, while keeping one ineffective remains alive.



Activities within this WP involve analysis of literature concerning modern methods of use of historical ruins and analysis of practical experiences and best examples of how to use ruined medieval objects while preserving their authenticity and historical value.

The report has been elaborated starting from bibliographic sources, such as monographs dedicated to the theme of the restoration of historic monuments and, in particular, of ruins. Much of the consulted texts are conferences proceedings that have taken place very often in the last years all over Europe; this demonstrates the importance of this topic at European level from a scientific and cultural point of view. At the same time, very important have been the texts on restoration history, supported by international charters such as the International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites (The Venice Charter, 1964) or the Declaration of Amsterdam (1975). In this sense, the dissertations of history and theory of the restoration of the Italian school emerge a prime reference, given the rich contribution that experts such as Camillo Boito, Cesare Brandi and Gustavo Giovannoni have had internationally.

Concerning the search for case studies, they have been partly taken from the above mentioned texts, partly from international magazines, periodicals and websites dedicated to architecture and design and archaeology. Furthermore some case studies have been selected thanks to the direct knowledge by each project partner, including the sites included in the project itself.

This collection of the state-of-art constitutes the fundamental and indispensable phase of knowledge, without which it could not be possible to move to the following phase, represented by the development of transnational models of contemporary use of medieval ruins.

This report represents the basis contents for the drafting of the handbook dedicated to the use and re-use of medieval ruins while preserving their authenticity and historical value, which represents the final output of WPT2.

The report is organized in four chapters. The first one deals in general with the theme of use and re-use of cultural heritage, highlighting those that are the key concepts that underpin the interventions on monuments, namely that of authenticity, compatibility and sustainability. Theoretical references to this are borrowed from the universally recognized restoration theory at the European level.

The second chapter focuses the project's object of study, namely the medieval ruins, presenting a short historical excursion devoted to the theme of the reuse of ruins, starting from nineteenth-century theories. The third chapter is the main point of the report, that is, the analysis of international best practices on projects and achievements in the use and re-use of medieval ruins. At first, the method used for collecting case studies is presented, followed by the sequence of elaborated sheets and finally a reasoned summary of the various functions identified is implemented. Case studies provide a varied and consistent overview for the implementation of the next steps of the



project. All the partners have actively contributed to the collection of case studies, and it can be said that much of the competence area of Central Europe and even beyond has been included in the study.

The last chapter is devoted to the bibliography, which is a very important source concerning the extensive theoretical and projected dissertation that has been carried out on this theme in recent years. Given the contents of the analysis, it should be emphasized that this document is innovative, as there is no text in literature that deals in such a specific and detailed way with the use of medieval ruins, especially with an in overview. This first result of WPT2 can therefore be considered a first step of absolute relevance not only for the purposes of the RUINS project, but also for the wider dissemination and use of this work, for public authorities and other potential stakeholders.

To get more details visit <https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/D.T2.1.1---Report-on-the-current-state-of-art-on-contempo-1-.pdf>

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Topic of project are medieval ruins. In Europe there are at least several thousand historical ruins. Owners and managers of these sites struggle with the same problems: protection of ruins is problematic due to ongoing process of destruction, and modern use of ruins is limited.

Project objective is to give “the second life” to medieval ruins through modern management and attributing contemporary, socially useful functions, while preserving historical value of these sites.

Project aims to develop and disseminate transnational guidelines and integrated model of contemporary use, modern management and protection of medieval ruins in Central Europe in order to enable elaboration of comprehensive management plans for ruined historical sites. Elaborated comprehensive management plans will help owners and managers of historical ruins, local, regional and public authorities exploit economic potential of this heritage in economic development of regions, and to preserve value of medieval ruins as cultural heritage.

Traditional approach to preservation of ruins has been focused on only one issue - how to maintain historical ruins from technical point of view. Innovation of project is to go beyond technical problems and to create integrated model that brings together 3 elements: contemporary use, modern management and sustainable preservation of ruins. Activities undertaken within project will be combination of research tasks concerning documentation and evaluation of technical state of ruins, conservation tasks



concerning the form of protection of ruins and, most of all, activities aimed at contemporary use and modern management of historical ruins.

Cooperation of 6 countries with various traditions and experiences will result in development of universal models that could be applied for management, use and protection of medieval ruins all over Europe, providing European added value.

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